

EMS Profile: Odessa Fire Department



*The Odessa
Fire Department*

Number of personnel: The Odessa Fire Department is a paid fire and MICU service with a staff of 167 professionals including 23 ECAs, 31 EMTs, 67 paramedics and 36 licensed paramedics. All newly hired personnel are required to become Texas DSHS paramedics and TCFP certified structural firefighters. OFD personnel work a 24/48 schedule. Chief Rick Dietz is OFD chief and there are three assistant fire chiefs: Roger Boyd, suppression; John Alvarez, administration; and Dale Childers, EMS. Three battalion chiefs lead the three shifts: Stan Tinney, Kavin Tinney and David Parker. The training division is comprised of Training Chief Glen Hogue and three senior

captains: Darrel Johnston, Kevin Jackson and Kevin Doan. The training division provides monthly fire and EMS continuing education for 167 paid personnel, as well as additional outside training opportunities for specific needs within the department.

Years of service, number of units and number of calls: The Odessa Fire Department has been the EMS provider for the City of Odessa and Ector County since 1973. We currently operate seven MICU ambulances and eight ALS fire engines. Our coverage area is approximately 904 square miles; we serve a population of 124,000. The Odessa Fire Department responded to 10,437 EMS calls in 2006.

In 1970, the City of Odessa was the first city in the state to provide the 9-1-1 emergency dialing system. In 1972, the City of Odessa was first in the state to utilize the Jaws of Life.

Current activities: Under the leadership of Medical Director Dave Spear, MD, the Odessa Fire Department is also utilizing portable ultrasound monitors on ambulances. The monitors provide valuable pre-hospital assessment information to the paramedics and emergency room staff. The Odessa Fire Department was recognized at the First World Congress on Ultrasound held in Milan, Italy, in 2005, for having the first paramedic ultrasound program in the world. The department is currently participating in a national study on ultrasound use in the pre-hospital setting.

In February 2007, the Odessa Fire Department started a weekly pediatric visitation program in which firefighters visit sick children at the Medical Center Hospital. The firefighters spend a few minutes with each child and give them gifts of pencils, colors, coloring books and stuffed animals. The children are invited to visit local fire stations and spend some time with the firefighters once they are discharged from the hospital.



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